

## The Bisbee Daily Review

Published Every Day Except Monday by the  
State Consolidated Publishing Company

Business Office—Phone No. 39.  
Branch Connecting All Departments. ...

Advertising Rates on Application.  
Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at Bisbee, Arizona,  
Under Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates, Payable in Advance:  
PER MONTH ..... .75  
THREE MONTHS ..... 2.25  
SIX MONTHS ..... 4.00  
TWELVE MONTHS ..... 7.50  
SUNDAY (Our Weekly) per year ..... 2.50  
SUNDAY (Our Weekly) per quarter ..... .75  
No Subscription Taken For Less Than 75 Cents

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Saturday Morning, October 28, 1916.

### BETTER TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

It is, apparently, useless to appeal to the average man or woman to obey certain laws, and this applies particularly to the traffic laws of both city and state. It has been, very unfortunately, considered effete to be arrested for speeding. Many people consider it a display of some kind of prowess. This inability to enforce traffic regulations in the Warren District, without the proper constituted officers, has become obvious. Yesterday the first step to eliminate the evil and the dangers thereof was taken. Three motorcycle deputies were appointed by Sheriff Wheeler and immediately commissioned.

Some of the county and city officers have been censured for not stopping excessive speeding and other violations of the statutes. It is only fair to state that the force of the sheriff, the constables and the city officers have their hands full in attending the routine work of their offices and, in spite of these handicaps, have done much to keep the abuse of the laws to its present level.

The people of the Warren District should get behind the traffic officers in their work to stop violations of this particular law. The object is certainly deserving and any toning down of the average man's natural propensity for speed should meet with the instant and hearty approval and cooperation of everyone, whether they own an automobile or not.

### CUMMINGS AND FAIRBANKS.

National politicians are having numerous laughs over the failure of the stand-pat management of the Republican campaign to induce progressive Republican Senator to make the principal speech notifying Charles W. Fairbanks of his nomination for Vice-President.

All hands at Republican headquarters thought it would be a fine move to identify some prominent progressive with the occasion at Indianapolis, in a doubtful State with a large Progressive and Independent vote. So they asked Senator Borah of Idaho.

"No," said the Idaho Senator, "absolutely can't spare the time."

Next they waited on Senator Kenyon of Iowa.

"Yes," said Senator Kenyon, "I'll make the speech, if you will let me make the kind of speech I want to make."

"Certainly, Senator, you may say anything you like."

"But wait—"

"Oh, why of course—you'll be the judge of what to say."

"All right, but listen," insisted Kenyon. "I intend to say substantially, 'Gentlemen, I'm sorry to say that Mr. Fairbanks stands at the head of one of the most corrupt political machines that ever has figured in American politics. It is the most thoroughly rotten organization on record, and I—'"

"Never mind any more, Senator, you're excused," said the amazed spokesman of the Republican managers, and he hastened on to try other progressives. All the conspicuous spokesmen and supporters of progressive legislation were sounded. Not one would accept.

Hence it was found necessary at the last minute to fall back on Senator L. Y. Sherman, the Illinois reactionary.

### "ROOSEVELT AND WAR."

Under the title "Roosevelt and War," the Sioux City (Iowa) "Daily Tribune," an independent newspaper, calls attention to Roosevelt's war-policy towards Germany, as declared in his Battle Creek, Michigan, speech of October 7, and demands enlightenment as to whether Roosevelt will dominate American foreign policy if Hughes is elected.

This editorial is typical of many that have appeared recently in independent and Republican newspapers. Inasmuch as Hughes gave a blanket indorsement to the Roosevelt speech at Portland, Maine, in September, and has not qualified the indorsement to date, it is assumed widely that the Colonel's campaign tactics still have Hughes's approval.

Roosevelt at Battle Creek, as applied both to foreign affairs and the Adamson Eight-Hour Law, demanded a "direct reversal" of President Wilson's policies. Candidate Hughes has used terms more vague but with the same apparent meaning. Everything now indicates an attempt to repeal the Eight-Hour Law if Hughes becomes President. Hence the election of Hughes would mean not only war abroad and with Mexico, but an industrial war at home.

"In the State of Henry Ford, Colonel Roosevelt is at

work to destroy pacifism and Wilson," says the Sioux City Tribune. "In a stirring speech at Battle Creek he quickened the blood of his hearers and made it plain that if he was a candidate for the presidency men would not have to ask, 'What would you have done?' He would fight."

The editor of the Tribune then quoted an Associated Press Dispatch, reporting Roosevelt's words at Battle Creek:

"I have been asked what I would have done if I had been president when the Lusitania was torpedoed," shouted the speaker.

"I would have instantly taken possession of every German ship interned by this country and then I would have said: 'Now we will discuss not what you will give, but what we will give back!'"

The editorial continued: "This utterance, says the voracious Associated Press, was received by wild applause."

"Of course it was. A warmed up crowd likes a fight, and the Colonel would have given them one right off the bat when the Lusitania went down, had he been president. There will never be an excuse again for doubting that."

"The editor of the 'Tribune' was younger then, but that's the way he felt when a British man-of-war took off an American ship Mason and Slidell, the rebel commissioners, who had been captured, on their way over to Europe to make trouble for this country. That's the way Secretary Seward felt, too, and had he been president the North would have taken on Great Britain for a fight along with the well nigh unconquerable southrons. But President Lincoln overruled his great secretary of state and proceeded with the business of 'saving the union,' the main thing."

"Wars are much a matter of temperament and governmental organization, but some men have intellects that subordinate feelings and these may not be brushed aside. Lincoln was much wiser than Seward, or the men on the street, in their day. His heart was set on a great purpose and he proceeded calmly toward it and so came into imperishable renown. Nobody now supports the Seward contention."

"It was not our time to get into war, although there was provocation and feeling to warrant a combative leader to plunging in. There was feeling to justify what Colonel Roosevelt would have done had he been president when the Lusitania was assassinated. But would it have extorted from Germany an admission of her error? Would it have saved the precedent in international law? Would it have stopped the slaughter by Germany's under-seas navy? There's room to doubt it."

"Any way, since that danger has passed by, it affords a theme of interesting conversation. There is quite full agreement now that had Colonel Roosevelt been president there would have been things going on that would have shaken the foundations. In place of a placid and persistent administration we would have had one of thrills and terrors."

The editorial concluded:

"However, what the Colonel would have done is not so important a question as what he may effect now by installing an administration which will not follow such a course as Wilson followed."

"The Colonel's real complaint is that he was not in a position to move Wilson's hand. Will he be in a position to move the hand of Hughes after the 4th of March?"

### SHORTENING THE DECALOGUE.

There was a time when it would have seemed sacrilege to tamper with the Ten Commandments. Now the recommendation of a commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the shortening of the first five is received by most Christians with approval, or at least with tolerant respect.

As proposed, these commandments would read:

"Thou shalt have no other gods but me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them nor worship them."

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain."

"Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day."

"Honor thy father and thy mother."

It will be observed that the "commandment" parts have been scrupulously retained. The parts omitted appear to be simply incidental explanation or comments which were doubtless necessary when the commandments were first presented to the Children of Israel, but which are hardly needed after four thousand years of familiar use and elucidation.

Seeing that the commission has gone so far as this, many persons will wonder why it didn't go a step farther and shorten the second commandment still more. As it stands, this commandment plainly forbids the carving or molding of any image of any living thing. It is a flat interdiction of the whole art of sculpture, and taken literally applies also to some of the other arts. It was intended, evidently, to meet the weakness of the ancient Jews for idolatry by taking temptation out of their way, and through long ages they obeyed it literally. But even the Jews today do not seem to feel bound by the prohibition, and the Christians have never felt so. We can make images now without worshipping them. And if we refrain from worshipping images, thereby obeying the real purport of the commandment, why not omit the part that has become a dead letter?

Nobody knows how Hughes stands on any vital question of the day—not even which crowd of unneutral supporters he intends to throw down.

The Old Guard wants Hughes. T. R. wants Hughes. If Hughes is elected will he play with the burglars and second-story men? Or will he take his orders from Oyster Bay through Mr. Perkins?

## REPUBLICAN FILM TOO RAW TO SHOW

"Watchful Waiting" Insult to  
President Shelled by Na-  
tional Committee.

### IT DRAGGED IN RELIGION

Picture Prepared by Hal Reid Showed  
Convent and Sisters of Charity  
in a Story Grotesquely  
Revolted.

It was a remarkable piece of campaign news the New York World let loose a few days ago—a story of dirty methods to bolster up the political fortunes of a floundering candidate. According to the World the Republican National Committee had a multiple reel film prepared, entitled "Watchful Waiting," to be distributed by the committee and displayed under the auspices of, or by arrangement with, the various Republican State Committees. The Committees even had prepared circulars advising the picture to be sent broadcast over the country to County Chairmen.

According to this circular, the "movie" story begins with the betrothal of John Martin to Marion Lombard. Martin, a United States trooper, is called to Mexico, where he is killed by one of Villa's followers. Upon the death of her betrothed Marion becomes a Sister of Charity and is sent to Mexico to nurse wounded soldiers.

"In the meantime," says the circular, "the followers of Huerta shoot down the American flag. Mr. Wilson organized a fleet of battleships, which he sends to Vera Cruz to demand that Huerta apologize and salute the American flag, but with orders to the United States marines to withhold fire."

"Sometime later Villa and his followers make a night attack on Columbus, N. M. Immediately follows the Carrizal fight. Villa and his followers make an attack on the convent and drag the Sisters into the brush, leaving them to die. Marion, rather than meet such a fate, kills herself."

"The heads of both the Protestant and Catholic churches sent petitions to Wilson, whose ears are deafened to their entreaties, and he sleeps peacefully at his desk."

"Views of both Col. Roosevelt and Gov. Hughes will be taken in conjunction with this picture, but cannot be described at this writing."

Denounced by Reid's Own Friends.

That film was prepared at a cost of \$35,000, and its director, Hal Reid, years ago was sentenced to prison on a charge of assault on a variety actress. He served thirteen months in the Stillwater (Minn.) Penitentiary when he was pardoned and exonerated of the charge.

Some of Mr. Reid's friends, when told of his new photoplay, expressed themselves, in substance, as follows:

"I do not believe that I have ever listened to anything that shows so much real rottenness in politics as this idea of the Republican National Committee."

"It is the most disgusting thing I ever listened to."

"It constitutes a series of deliberate and studied insults to the Nation's chief executive."

"I think it will go a long way toward beating Mr. Wilson," said Reid to a reporter for the World. "First, I show Villa peering through the bushes. Then there is sub-title reading 'Why didn't President Wilson stop the war in Europe by putting an embargo on all exports to all European countries alike, except on foodstuffs?'"

"Next I show Vera Cruz. A launch filled with American sailors is seen approaching the wharf. Then I show the wharf and Mexicans, armed, standing there. They are on the boat. I show the officer in the boat picking up the American flag riddled with bullet holes."

"And then I show the President asleep at his desk. I show that all through, a dozen times or more—the President asleep. I show it after the attack on Columbus and after Carrizal and after the nuns are attacked."

The motion pictures were taken near New York. Some of them were prepared at a studio at Cliffside, N. J. Some of the "Mexican" scenes were photographed at Sheepshead Bay, near Coney Island. Other pictures were taken at Rockaway Point—the Vera Cruz of the picture.

"A Corker," Says Colby.

Everett Colby, as Chairman Willcox's representative, was present at the photographing of a number of the scenes. He called the film "a corker."

The day following the World's exposure, the film was privately screened for George W. Perkins, Herbert Parsons, James B. Reynolds, Candidates Hughes' confidential secretary, Chairman Willcox's private secretary and other members of the Republican committee. A pow-wow followed. A couple of days later, an expurgated, denatured and devitalized edition was thrown on the screen for members of the Republican National Committee. They found the "historic facts" sadly less interesting than the advance notices promised. They did not even gaze on the picture of a pseudo President Wilson asleep at his desk, while the toting down of the scope of the attack on the Catholic

## THEY'RE ALL SHORT THIS YEAR

By BRINKERHOFF.



nuns had robbed it of any value as a thriller.

So the committeemen agreed that, for Republicans, "Watchful Waiting" was not a success, that its defects could not be overcome; and that, the proper place for it was the shelf. So the "scene closes" with Chairman Willcox writing a letter to Hal Reid saying the film could not be used, but commending Reid for his zeal—the zeal paid for with Republican money, which sought to drag religion into the campaign.

### A REPUBLICAN BOOMERANG.

Nothing so forcibly reveals the desperate situation at the Republican National Campaign Headquarters as their attempt to discredit President Wilson's Mexican policy by a "movie" picture directed by a pardoned convict whose idea of a "thrill" is a scene showing nuns being ravished and whose conception of patriotism is the President asleep at his desk.

But after all the principal is responsible for this agent. Hal Reid was only trying to earn the \$35,000 appropriated by the Republican National Committee for a film which now sinks so loud they don't want to get within smelling distance of it. And they excuse themselves by saying they never knew it would be so rotten! The point is this—it wasn't too rotten if they could get away with it. They were caught in the act of trying to "put it over." They were caught in the act of trying to deny responsibility for it.

Does anyone believe that Hal Reid went ahead with the faked film before he had had his scenario O. K'd by someone in authority at Republican Headquarters? Everett Colby's indorsement, "It's a corker," is sufficient proof of this.

That it was in execrable taste or even treasonable—what was that to this crowd which has nothing to spend but money! The whole sordid affair is a fit parallel to the Rum, Romanism and Rebellion campaign which proved such a boomerang to the parties that started it.

What can you expect of a party which campaigns on abuse, vilification, slander, innuendo, and lies? We agree with the Brooklyn Eagle in wondering "if there was anything in this film that was not more than suggested by Col. Roosevelt in his many attacks upon the President's Mexican policy? He has proclaimed President Wilson responsible for the conditions that he described. Other have done the same. In view of this, why should the playwright be blamed for adapting the material to his medium? Can it be that the vilifiers of the President had to see these things on the screen before realizing how truly despicable this form of attack appears to most people?"

The exposure of the character of this patrid film should, says the Evening World, prove a sharp lesson to Republican campaign leaders. "The whole affair puts a stigma upon Republican campaign methods."

### DEATH TOLL IN QUEBEC

FIRE REACHES SEVENTEEN FARNHAM, Que., Oct. 27.—The number of lives lost in the fire that destroyed St. Elizabeth's Hospital here Wednesday night was reduced to 17 today. Two aged inmates, who had been included in the list of missing were found. Search of ruins resulting in the finding of the four charred bodies, no inquest be held it was stated tonight.

The inquiry conducted by the city authorities led to the abandonment today of incendiary theory and placed the blame upon defective electric wires.

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